

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/649,019

Examiner

Michael Rutland-Wallis

Applicant(s)

SHIBAGAKI ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/30/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-9 and 11-14.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
LYNN FEILD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

Claim 1-2,4-9 and 11-14 are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: With respect to claims 1 and 7 Okada teaches a vehicle lock controller (item 30 or item 68) installed in a vehicle having a plurality of doors (see Fig. 1) to control locking of the doors through communication with a portable device (item 12), the vehicle lock controller comprising: a plurality of transmitting circuits (items 20 and 22), each provided in association with a corresponding one of the doors to output a request signal (see column 2 line 16) and request the portable device to transmit a response signal (see column 2 line 16) also see column 9 lines 5-30 where Okada gives a teaching of transmitting circuits and receiving circuits for the request and response signal correspond to each door. Okada further teaches a control unit (item 26) connected to the transmitting circuits. Okada teaches the signals are intermittently cycled see column 9 lines 19-56 or column lines 14-23 Okada teaches detecting a request signal for a predetermined time before unlocking the associated door. Okada teaches the controller item 68 can be programmed with priority codes see column 19 lines 42-55 and order of the circuits may be predetermined or the transceiver with the highest priority. Okada does not teach the further limitation to claims 1 and 8 of determining the priority order of the transmitting

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circuit based how often each door is used. At least these further limitations to claims 1,7 and 8 not taught or rendered obvious in the cited prior art of record.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Okada et al. (U.S. Pat. No.6,552,649) teaches the device of claims 1 and 8 but was published later than the EP document cited above, Masudaya (U.S. Pat. No.6,707,375) teaches a device with a plurality of transmitters and a method of prioritization of the transmission of data signals, Morikawa (U.S. Pat. No.6, 630,889) teaches a prioritization method similar to that of claims 1 and 8.

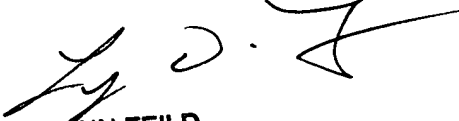
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Rutland-Wallis whose telephone number is 571-272-5921. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30AM-6:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn D. Feild can be reached on 571-272-2092. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MRW

  
LYNN FEILD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER